

## OPINION 1795

*Corisa sexlineata* Reuter, 1882 (currently *Sigara (Tropocorixa) sexlineata*; Insecta, Heteroptera): specific name not conserved, and that of *C. confluens* Fieber, 1851 placed on Official List

### Ruling

(1) The name *confluens* Fieber, 1851, as published in the binomen *Corisa confluens*, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

### History of Case 2831

An application to conserve the specific name of *Corisa sexlineata* Reuter, 1882 by the suppression of the senior subjective synonym *C. confluens* Fieber, 1851 was received from Dr Antti Jansson (*Zoological Museum, University of Helsinki, Finland*) on 29 August 1991. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 50: 124–126 (June 1993). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

The application was submitted for voting on 1 March 1994. The case received a majority (17 votes in favour, 9 against) but failed by one vote to reach the necessary two-thirds majority for the conservation of the junior name. Voting against, Dupuis commented on his voting paper that the labels used in the Puton and Marmottan collections in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (para. 2 of the application) demonstrated the use of Fieber's name *confluens* in the 19th century. The name had been listed in Oshanin (1910) and Stichel (1955), which were classic works. It was not clear that 'considerable confusion' would result from the retention of Fieber's name (there were not many specialists and no comments had been received). Holthuis commented: 'Evidently this is not a widely known species and only familiar to taxonomists. I do not see that this case is important enough for the use of the plenary powers by the Commission; for such minor name changes it is better to apply the Code strictly'. Kabata commented: 'The Principle of Priority is a linchpin of the Code which must not be overridden unless there is clear evidence that this is necessary for stability. The cited frequency of use (16 times during the last 45 years) of the junior synonym is hardly overwhelming; much more frequently-used names have been changed without causing a ripple in the world of systematics'. Štys commented: 'I fail to see why the provisions of the Code should not be applied and priority observed. *Sigara sexlineata* is by no means widely known or otherwise especially important and the name *Corisa confluens* was used by Jordan (1953) and by Stichel (1955)'. [Editorial note. Stichel also listed *S. sexlineata*; para. 4 of the application].

On 1 September 1994 the application was sent to the Commission for a revote under the Bylaws. It was noted on the voting paper that the references cited and those held by the Secretariat (para. 3 of the application) showed that the taxon had a wide distribution (the Near and Middle East and the whole of Africa) and that in the primary literature of the past half century only the junior name *sexlineata* had been adopted.

### Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1994 the members of the Commission were invited to revote on the proposals published in BZN 50: 125. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1994 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 7: Bock, Hahn, Nielsen, Nye, Schuster, Štys, Willink

Negative votes — 17: Bayer, Bouchet, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Savage, Starobogatov, Thompson and Trjapitzin.

No votes were received from Halvorsen and Uéno.

Dupuis, Kraus and Ride were on leave of absence.

Cogger commented that he would have voted for the application if it had included a neotype designation for *Corisa sexlineata* Reuter, 1882. Mahnert commented: 'In my view application of the principle of priority in this case does not cause confusion: taxonomists are confronted with regular nomenclatural changes, particularly in taxa without considerable economic, medical or ecological importance'.

The required majority for the conservation of the specific name of *Corisa sexlineata* Reuter, 1882 was not reached and its use for the taxon has therefore not been accepted. It has the status of a junior subjective synonym of *C. confluens* Fieber, 1851.

### Original references

The following is the original reference to the name placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*confluens*, *Corisa*, Fieber, 1851, *Species generis Corisa*, p. 18. (A preprint from *Abhandlungen der Königlichen Böhmisches Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften*, (5)7: 230; 1852).